



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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August 16, 2019

Steven T. James
House Clerk
State House Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk
State House Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Pursuant to Chapter 111 Section 2J, please find enclosed a report from the Department of Public Health entitled "**Public Health Grant Trust Fund Report 2019.**"

Sincerely,

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner
Department of Public Health

Public Health Grant Trust Fund Report 2019

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Executive Summary

The Public Health Trust was established to allow the Department of Public Health (DPH) to participate in competitive grant opportunities with nonprofit partners. This provides DPH with the ability to pursue funding opportunities that were previously impossible. In particular, it will support opportunities around surveillance and data sharing. DPH has received two competitive grants and one competitive subcontract to date.

Grants received July 1, 2018-December 31, 2018

- Colon Cancer Coalition - \$25,000
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists - \$30,000

Subcontract received January 1, 2019-June 30, 2019

- Boston Medical Center, funded by National Institute on Drug Abuse - \$3,896,635

DPH is actively pursuing two subcontracts and two grant proposals. The establishment of this trust is proving to be beneficial to DPH and its partners. There was previously no mechanism to accept private foundation funds in a timely manner and no mechanism to be a subcontract for a research grant.

Legislative Mandate

The following report is hereby issued pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 111, Section 2J –

Section 2J. There shall be a Public Health Grant Trust Fund. The commissioner shall administer the fund to collaborate with nonprofit organizations to participate in competitive grant opportunities that further the mission of the department.

There shall be credited to the fund money received from public and private sources to support public health competitive grant opportunities. Amounts credited to the fund shall not be subject to further appropriation. Money remaining in the fund at the end of a

fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

Annually, not later than January 1, the commissioner shall report on the activities of the fund to the clerks of the house of representatives and senate and to the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means. The report shall include: (i) an accounting of money received by the fund broken down by funding source; (ii) a description of the competitive grant opportunities and whether a competitive grant opportunity is in collaboration or partnership with a nonprofit organization; (iii) an accounting of money expended from the fund broken down by recipient; (iv) the amount of any unexpended balance; and (v) a description of anticipated competitive grant opportunities applied or expected to be applied to in the upcoming calendar year and whether the competitive grant opportunity is in collaboration or partnership with a nonprofit organization.

Report on Competitive Opportunities - July 1, 2018- December 31, 2018

Title	Amount	Budget Period	Date of Application	Funder
Colon Cancer Coalition	\$25,000	10/1/2018-12/31/2019	6/12/2018	Colon Cancer Coalition https://coloncancercoalition.org/
Influenza Surveillance Enhancements	\$30,000	9/1/2018-10/31/19	7/27/2018	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists https://www.cste.org/

Influenza Surveillance Enhancements summary: The goals of the project is assist CSTE to expand influenza surveillance activities for the purposes of informing identified gaps in our current knowledge base, maximizing the utilization of existing data reporting platforms, improving influenza disease burden estimates, and developing a greater understanding of the clinical impact of genetically distinct influenza viruses. Funds support IT enhancements to support reporting on specimens collected and provide population level data on people being served. This funding was available to state and territorial health departments.

Colon Cancer Coalition Grant Award summary: Using data from the Massachusetts Cancer Registry and BRFSS, the Office of Population Health will conduct an in-depth analysis of colon cancer incidence, mortality, and screening by behavioral risk factors and determinants of health factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, and age. Funds will be used to hire a writer to create a user-friendly report with a health equity lens. The report will be posted on www.mass.gov/dph. This funding was available to government and nonprofit organizations.

Report on Competitive Opportunities - January 1, 2019- June 30, 2019

Title	Amount	Budget Period	Date of Application	Funder
MassHeal	\$3,896,635	Awarded 2/2/2019 Approximately 9/1/2019- 1/31/2023	12/11/2018	Boston Medical Center – subcontract from National Institute on Drug Abuse

MassHeal summary: DPH is a key subcontractor of Boston Medical Center’s research study on the effectiveness of a comprehensive community treatment approach to address the opioid epidemic. The Commissioner and key staff from the Office of Population Health and the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services play significant roles in the design and implementation of the study and the Department will use data from the Public Health Data Warehouse to analyze trends and outcomes in the study’s approach. This was a very competitive research grant and Boston Medical Center received one of 4 grants awarded nationally.

Summary of Expenditures and Unexpended Balance

Summary of Awards, Expenditures and Balances

Name of Grant	Award Amount	Amount Received	Expenditures	Unexpended Balance
Influenza Surveillance Enhancements	\$30,000	\$0	\$0*	\$0
Colon Cancer Coalition	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$17,972	\$7,028
MassHeal	\$3,896,635	\$0	\$0**	\$0
TOTAL	\$3,951,635	\$25,000	\$17,972	\$7,028

*Invoice for \$27,000 submitted in July 2019.

**No activity to date. DPH is negotiating subcontract with Boston Medical Center.

Expenditure Details

Name of Grant	Expenditures	Recipient	Purpose
Colon Cancer Coalition	\$17,972	Eastern Research Group	Write report
TOTAL	\$17,792		

Pending Activities

Below is a list of applications that DPH is actively pursuing. Without this trust, none of these activities could have been pursued.

- Baystate Medical Center/Massachusetts Justice Community Opioid Network – applied 3/5/19 for \$833,533 to evaluate the CARE Act. Funded by National Institute of Health. There is tentative approval. DPH is waiting for written confirmation. Budget period is 9/1/2019 – 8/31/2025.
- Tufts University subcontract – applied 5/31/19 for \$80,636 to forecast opioid overdose hotspots. Funded by National Institute for Drug Addiction. Waiting for award decisions. Budget period is 4/1/2020-3/31/2025.
- Association of Public Health Laboratories – application is due August 8, 2019 to conduct Whole Genome Testing on suspected tuberculosis specimens and evaluate test efficacy. Budget period is 9/2/2019-6/30/2020. The application amount to be determined and will be reimbursed per test.
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – application is due August 30, 2019 to support Lifeline affiliated suicide prevention call centers. Budget period is 10/1/2019 – 9/30/2021. The application amount is \$289,050.